



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

TAKE
PRIDE IN
AMERICA

Mr. [REDACTED]

23 March 1993

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]:

Thank you for letting me leave traps on your land as I try to capture male 497. I understand your reluctance to officially associate with the wolf program. However, I hope that after considering points raised in this letter you will choose to official support our efforts to restore an important part of the national heritage.

During the fall of 1987 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) embarked on a dramatic 5-year experiment to recover the endangered red wolf. The release of 8 adult wolves in the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge in northeastern North Carolina put the species on the road to recovery. The project represents the first attempt in conservation history to restore an extinct-in-the-wild species. The fact that the project involves wolves, animals that have been intensely persecuted by humans, adds additional significance to the reintroduction.

By every measure the experiment, which concluded on 31 September 1992, was successful and generated benefits that extended beyond the immediate preservation of red wolves, to positively affect local citizens and communities, larger conservation efforts, and other imperiled species (for details see enclosure: "Summary of Red Wolf Project"). The USFWS is now planning to expand the red wolf program to the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge (for details see enclosure: "Proposal to Expand the Northeastern North Carolina Red Wolf Reintroduction Project").

The success of the expansion will largely depend on public support. With that in mind, I would appreciate learning of any ideas you have concerning the program. I am particularly interested in involving private landowners who should know that:

1. Red wolves generate benefits for farmers because they eat good numbers of pests like nutria, raccoons, and rodents.
2. Since red wolves are legally designated experimental-nonessential rather than endangered, their presence on private land does not affect activities of a landowner (for details see enclosure: "Application of the Experimental Population Designation to Recovery of Endangered Red Wolves").

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3. The experimental-nonessential designation will not be rescinded, and management protocol is being relaxed so that private individuals can participate if control of a wolf becomes necessary.
4. Red wolves will probably limit the numbers and distribution of coyotes, which are becoming established in eastern North Carolina and have the potential to create serious management problems for local landowners.
5. Project personnel can help with security of private land/property as our trucks, airplane, and mere presence probably often deter individuals from pursuing illegal activities (e.g. poaching, trespass, gate destruction, etc.).

A "Partners Agreement" is a simple way to involve private land in the red wolf program. Enclosed is a draft of such an agreement that is being developed for Lux Farms, INC. (7,580 acres in Hyde County, NC). The agreement with Lux Farms, INC. illustrates that the USFWS can compensate a landowner for permitting wolves to inhabit private property.

Your property is important to red wolves. Indeed, 497 has periodically wandered through your land during the last few months. I hope you will consider becoming officially involved with red wolf recovery through a "Partners Agreement".

In addition to the enclosures mentioned above, I have included copies of the Red Wolf Newsletter. I will be in touch.

Sincerely,

Mike Phillips
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